scheme. Under this programme, financial assistance is provided to States for maintenance of infrastructure; supply of drugs, contraceptives and equipments; training and a variety of promotional and motivational activities such as payment of compensation to those undergoing sterilization or adopting spacing methods; adolescent education etc. In demographically lagging States/Districts, which are mainly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh additional assistance is provided for appointing critical staff and organizing outreach camps, etc.

The budget for these activities has doubled from Rs. 2,489 Crores during 1998-99 to Rs. 4,930 Crores during the current financial year 2002-03. While almost half the funds, required for the maintenance of infrastructure, are released on a quarterly basis, the funds required for implementing the schemes are released on receipt of specific proposals from State Governments along with utilization certificates and audit reports of funds released in previous years.

Opining up of Chinese Drug Market

1264. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is opening up its drug market;

(b) if so, in what manner it will benefit the Indian drug industry;

(c) the main items of drug which will be of top priority in China; and

(d) the number of drug companies in the country which have shown keen interest in China drug market alongwith the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) It is understood that under WTO Agreement, China is committed to open up its domestic drug/pharmaceutical market for overseas players, though the manner in which it is done and the degree of opacity are issues under contention in the process. In 2003 foreigners will be permitted to operate both retail and wholesale business without capital and geographical limitation in China.

(c) and (d) Antibiotics, Penicillin, Streptomycin, medicaments of Alkaloids, Insulin, Vitamins, Vaccines for human and animals, Surgical equipments etc. constitute main products imported by China. A few Indian Pharmaceutical Companies have already established manufacturing and distributing basis in China namely Ranbaxy Lupin Ltd., Aurobindo Tongling Co. and Dr. Reddy's Laboratory.